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Medical Mission Series

HAINAN
THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS



DR. TONG
Assistant at the Nodoo Hospital

HOSPITALS IN HAINAN

HoiHOW (Kiung Chow).—Hospital; dispensary.

NODOA.—Hospital; dispensary.

KACHEK.—Hospital; dispensary.

Patients treated in 1907, 15707.

S T A F F

H. M. McCANDLISS, M. D.

REV. J. F. KELLY, M. D.

S. L. LASELL, M. D.

HOSPITALS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

ILOILO.—Hospital; dispensary.

DUMAGUETE.—Hospital; dispensary.

CEBU.—Dispensary; medical itineration.

Patients treated in 1907, 12,472.

S T A F F

J. ANDREW HALL, M. D.

WM. J. LANGHEIM, M. D.

JAMES A. GRAHAM, M. D.

ROBERT W. CARTER, M. D.

MEDICAL WORK IN HAINAN



THE earliest Protestant missionary in Hainan was Mr. C. C. Jeremiassen, who began medical work at Hoihow in 1881. He worked independently for a time, traveling around the island, preaching and dispensing medicines. In 1885 his work was taken under the care of the Canton Mission and Dr. H. M. McCandliss was sent to the capital, Kiung Chow, three miles inland. An old ancestral hall was fitted up as a hospital, and the prestige of the physician's success was most helpful in gaining a hearing for Christian teaching. In 1897 a hospital was built at Hoihow, the seaport of Kiung Chow, and the medical work centralized there. The foreign residents of the city have since shown their interest in the hospital by erecting a pavilion of twenty-four beds for women and children. The Chinese merchants of Hoihow gave the money for a large isolation ward, and a wealthy Chinese gentleman has given land to enlarge the grounds. Surgical wards with cement floors make it possible to undertake serious operations.

Aside from the actual relief of suffering, the medical work does much good in helping the people to cast off the bondage of their superstitious beliefs. None but those who have worked among them can know how heavily they are burdened by their fear of the dead and their dread of evil spirits. Disease, to their minds, has nothing to do with infection, but is caused by the malignity of some earth god or the displeasure of some ancestor, who is discontented with his place of burial.

Their superstitious observances are endless. If there is smallpox in the house, some ornamented red paper is pasted on the outer wall. If there is a birth, a branch of wild pineapple tied with red paper is hung out at the door, and none

but the household must euter. For twelve days no work must be done, no box opened, no rice pounded. None of the family may engage in heavy labor lest the earth gods should be offended and smite the young mother.

Under every child's bed is the spirit of some old woman, and every night a stick of incense must be put under the bed as an offering. When plague appears, it is the plague spirit that comes, and the survivors must run away and find refuge elsewhere. Meanwhile thieves and prowlers enter the house and carry off the clothing and furniture, thus spreading the disease.

If there is a case of fever, the priest must be called to entreat the fever god. If the case is one of dropsy, the water god must be appealed to. If the eyes become diseased, there is a female god who has charge of such matters. Weak women must seek the god of Bak Nga. The insane must be commended to the god who sits in the temple at Long Kee. Rheumatism and neuralgia are due to evil earth gods. The priest must write charms on muslin and paste a piece on each of the four corners of the house, and one on the altar in the center. These rags must be sprinkled daily.*

Nodoa.—From Nodoa, near the center of the island, it is possible to reach the various tribes of the interior. Seven dialects are spoken in the market, though most of the people understand Hainanese. There is here a large colony of Hakkas—"guests"—coming originally from the mainland. They are a superior class of people, more able and ambitious than the Hainanese. Dr. Tong, the valued assistant in the hospital, is a Hakka. He speaks five of the dialects.

The Mary Henry Hospital, built and befriended by the Princeton Church of Philadelphia, is usually overcrowded. The women's wards are full to overflowing most of the year, which gives a matchless opportunity to instruct them in the Gospel, and to imbue them with some ideas of cleanliness and decent living. For several years the plague has raged in the surrounding towns, but Nodoa and Namfong, where we have a dispensary, have been free from the scourge. Among the patients in the hospital are many military officers and soldiers.

Kachek, near the coast, sixty miles south of Kiung Chow, was occupied in 1892. A hospital, the gift of Mr. A. W. Kilborne, of Orange, N. J., was opened on Christmas day of 1907. Dr. Bryan gives a vivid description of the services held with the patients in the little chapel:

* Dr. H. M. McCandliss in *Assembly Herald*.

On the wall are the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. We have a number of hymns, also made to hang on the wall, and point to each character as we sing it. We sing, pray, read the Commandments, Creed or Bible, and then talk, ending with another prayer. It is almost impossible to prepare a talk beforehand, as you have to be guided by the audience. Sometimes there are many who have heard the Gospel before; sometimes there are only new faces, and you must begin with, "God created the heaven and the earth." Our patients are mostly of the poorer classes, with an occasional scholar or well-to-do merchant, and while they are sometimes noisy or inattentive they are seldom disrespectful.

Our service is much more orderly than at first. We have always insisted on hats being removed; now, if a stranger comes in with his hat on, there is always some one to shout to him to take it off. It is sometimes troublesome to dispose of the hats, as they measure two and a half feet across, and in a crowd are hard to manipulate.

MEDICAL WORK IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

It is less than ten years since our first missionaries went to the Philippines, and for some time the disturbed state of the country prevented much traveling outside of Manila. Physicians are stationed as yet at only three points. The first medical work was begun by Andrew Hall, M. D., at Iloilo, where a small hospital of bamboo, thatched with nipa leaves, was built in 1901, with money raised in the place. Only a few patients each day ventured to come at first. Mrs. Hall welcomed the women and talked kindly to them while they awaited their turn, thus forming friendships which opened the way for Christian influence. An excellent Filipino assistant with his wife looked after the patients and helped in the dispensary. The little hospital did much good, especially in the serious outbreak of cholera, 1902-1903. It is now replaced by the *Sabine Haines Memorial Hospital*, built with funds given by Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Haines, of New York, in memory of their son. The Hon. Wm. McKinley, of Illinois, a member of the Congressional party accompanying Secretary Taft in 1905, also gave a large sum, and other gifts were made in Iloilo. The total cost of the building and equipment was about twenty thousand pesos. The hospital was formally opened in March, 1906. It is a very complete institution, with rooms for private patients and a capacity of

thirty beds. The operating room is thoroughly modern. There are quarters for the two American nurses and for the corps of Filipino nurses under training. Some of these have been at work for more than a year and have proved satisfactory and trustworthy. There are many difficulties to contend with, but by carefully selecting those who show special aptitude, there is reason to believe that in a few years we shall have a force of Filipino nurses who may be depended upon.

Worship is conducted every morning, and all the patients can hear at least the singing. Testaments and gospels are distributed in the wards and from the dispensary. Many have become interested and have afterwards united with the church, and others have had their prejudices overcome by the love and kindness shown them.

The total number of patients is nearly eight thousand yearly. The receipts have not quite covered the expenses, but it is hoped that they may do so another year.

The Baptist Mission has proposed that instead of establishing a hospital of their own in Iloilo they should unite with us in supporting ours, thus providing an adequate force of physicians and nurses and securing continuous service at the hospital as well as opportunity for district work. There is every reason to hope and believe that this plan will be consummated.

Dumaguete.—The Silliman Institute, with its more than three hundred students, is situated at Dumaguete on the Island of Negros. For this reason it is especially important that a physician should be stationed there. Dr. W. J. Langheim, arriving in 1902, was appointed by the government President of the Provincial Board of Health. Armed with this authority he was able, by watchful care and sanitary precautions, to save Dumaguete from the ravages of cholera. Finding a hospital imperatively needed, he obtained the Board's permission to expend the salary given him by the government in building it. It contains three wards with twenty-five beds, an operating room, dispensary and laboratory, with a ward for cholera patients. All the funds were raised on the field. The presence of the hospital is a great advantage to the school, and Dr. Langheim's position under the government has given our work prestige and influence. Many patients are visited in their homes.

Cebu.—East of Negros lies the Island of Cebu, where work was opened in 1902. From the beginning there has been more opposition here than at any other station, amounting

to serious persecution, and in one case to actual murder. Nevertheless, rapid progress has been made. In a single year more than six hundred persons were baptized.

No permanent medical work was established until January, 1906, on the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Graham. A new dispensary building was opened in August, and the attendance has constantly increased. The patients number about five thousand yearly. The small fees received nearly pay all expenses. Mrs. Graham helps in the waiting room, giving out gospels and leaflets and explaining them. The number of friends with each sick person varies from two to five, and all learn something of the truth. The dispensary is the great center of gospel and tract distribution for all parts of Cebu, and much of Bohol and Leyte.

The crying need here is for a suitable hospital and equipment. There are many patients that need a doctor's constant supervision.

Albay, in the southeast corner of Luzon, is the capital of one of the richest provinces, having a large trade in hemp. The railroad soon to be built through the heart of the province would open to a medical missionary stationed here a wide field for itineration.

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